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REMARKS

Regarding the status of this application, Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,078,348 issued to Babitchenko.

The Babitchenko patent discloses a "Holder for displaying flat patterns in two or three dimensions" as stated in its title. The Examiner's position is that "Babitchenko discloses an universal fixture having a plurality of dual axis clamps (20) with slotted holes each rotatably and slidably secured rods (fig. 1), and base (12). Babitchenko discloses enough parts to anticipate all claim pluralities. A plurality of threaded machine screws (30,68,88)." It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection has not addressed the specifically claimed structure recited in the pending Claims.

Claim 1 calls for a universal holding fixture for holding an object, comprising:

"a plurality of dual axis clamps that are each rotatable, slidable and lockable to two rods to form an articulated structure, each dual axis clamp comprising a single member having first and second substantially orthogonal slotted holes through which respective rods extend for clamping the respective rods, wherein slots are formed in each single member extending along an edge of each hole that extend through a lateral wall of the member, which rods and clamps are rotatable and slidable relative to each other around and along substantially orthogonal axes defined by the slotted holes to position the rods at varying and arbitrary angles relative to each other, and wherein selected rods are suitably positioned and secured to hold the object."

The "dual axis clamps (20)" referred to by the Examiner are referred to in the Babitchenko patent as "pivot carriers 20" (column 2, lines 37-38). The paragraph starting at column 2, line 37 states that

"Pivot carrier 20 is the uppermost of the two identical upper and lower pivot carriers 20 and 22, shown in FIG. 1. Pivot carrier 20 is shown in enlarged detail in FIG. 2. The pivot carrier body 24 has a bore 26 therein which is sized to receive the central post 14. Slot 28 intersects bore 26. Slot 28 is closed by means of thumbscrew 30, which engages through a clearance hole in the body on one side of the slot and which threads into threaded hole 32 on the near side of the slot. In this way, tightening of the thumbscrew 30 closes slot 28 and clamps the body on central post 14."

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the pivot carrier 20 is only secured to one rod, namely the central post, and is not "rotatable, slidable and lockable to two rods" as is recited in Claim 1, and the other pending independent Claims. This is clearly shown in Fig. 2 of the Babitchenko patent. There is only one slotted hole in the pivot carrier 20. This is also clearly shown in Fig. 2 of the Babitchenko patent. Thus, the Babitchenko patent does not disclose or suggest a "dual axis clamp comprising a single member having first and second substantially orthogonal slotted holes through which respective rods extend" as is recited in Claim 1 and other independent Claims. Furthermore, the Babitchenko patent does not disclose or suggest

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that "slots are formed in each single member extending along an edge of each hole that extend through a lateral wall of the member" as is recited in Claim 1 and other independent Claims.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the Babitchenko patent does not disclose or suggest the inventions recited in Claims 1, 11 and 17. Withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection and allowance of Claims 1, 11 and 17 are respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 2-9, 12-15, 18 and 19 are considered allowable over the Babitchenko patent at least based upon their dependence from allowable Claims 1, 11 and 17. Withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection and allowance of Claims 2-9, 12-15, 18 and 19 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,398,602 issued to Taylor.

The Taylor patent discloses a "Registration device for positioning silk screen frame against smooth, flat surface" as stated in its title. The Examiner's position is that "Taylor discloses an universal fixture having a plurality of dual axis clamps with slotted holes (fig. 1) each rotatably and slidably secured rods (20 & 36), and base (30). Taylor discloses enough parts to anticipate all claim pluralities. A plurality of threaded machine screws (40 & 52)."

The plurality of dual axis clamps recited in Claim 1 comprise "a single member having first and second substantially orthogonal slotted holes through which respective rods extend for clamping the respective rods." The Taylor patent discloses at column 4, lines 23-27 that "a pair of slide members 32 that can slide back and forth along the elongate member 20." Details of the slide members 32 are shown in Fig. 3 of the Taylor patent.

It is respectfully submitted that Fig. 3 of the Taylor patent clearly shows that there is only one slotted hole in the slide member 32. With regard to this, the Taylor patent discloses at column 5, lines 12-23 that

"Means are preferably provided on each slide member 32 for releasably securing the slide member 32 to the elongate member 20, such that the slide member 32 can be firmly secured to the elongate member 20 at any desired position in its travel along the elongate member 20 and thereafter released for movement to another desired position. As illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 3, the means for securing the slide member 32 to the elongate member comprises a slot 50 extending from an upper side of the slide member 32. The inner end of the slot 50 opens along the full length of the bore through which the elongate member 20 passes."

Note that Fig. 3 clearly shows that the rod 36 is secured in a hole 38 by means of a screw 40, and there is no slot used in conjunction with the hole.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the that the Taylor patent does not disclose or suggest dual axis clamps comprising "a single member having first and second substantially orthogonal slotted holes through which respective rods extend for clamping the respective rods, wherein slots are formed in each single member extending along an edge of each hole that extend through a lateral wall of the member" as is recited in Claim 1 and the other independent Claims.

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In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the Taylor patent does not disclose or suggest the invention recited in Claim 1. Withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection and allowance of Claim 1 are respectfully requested.

With regard to Claims 11 and 17, it is respectfully submitted that the Taylor patent does not disclose or suggest "a base" or "an articulated structure secured to the base" as is recited therein. The two slide members 32 disclosed in the Taylor patent are secured to "hand operated vacuum suction cups 12" (column 3 first paragraph of the Detailed Description).

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Taylor patent does not disclose or suggest the inventions recited in Claims 11 and 17. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the Taylor patent does not disclose or suggest the use of more than two slide members 32, as is recited in independent Claim 17. Withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection and allowance of Claims 11 and 17 are respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 2-9, 12-15, 18 and 19 are considered allowable over the Taylor patent at least based upon their dependence from allowable Claims 1, 11 and 17. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the Taylor patent does not disclose or suggest the use of more than two slide members 32, such as is recited in many of the dependent Claims. Withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection and allowance of Claims 2-9, 12-15, 18 and 19 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5-11, and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,946,122 issued to Ramsey et al.

The Ramsey et al. patent discloses a "Post claim" as stated in its title. The Examiner's position is that "Ramsey et al disclose an universal fixture having a plurality of dual axis clamps (38) with slotted holes each rotatably and slidably secured rods (10 & 12). Ramsey et al disclose enough parts to anticipate all claim pluralities. A plurality of threaded machine screws (54-58)." It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection has not addressed the specifically claimed structure recited in the pending Claims.

While the Ramsey et al. patent discloses a post clamp having orthogonal slotted holes, it is respectfully submitted that the Ramsey et al. patent does not disclose or suggest anything regarding construction of a universal holding fixture as is presently claimed. The Ramsey et al. patent only discloses individual embodiments of claims, and no applications for the clamps are discussed.

Therefore, with regard to Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the Ramsey et al. patent does not disclose or suggest "a plurality of dual axis clamps that are each rotatable, slidable and lockable to two rods to form an articulated structure" and certainly not without using improper hindsight reconstruction, using the teachings of the Ramsey et al. patent in light of Applicant's own teachings.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that there is absolutely no disclosure or suggestion in the Ramsey et al. patent that selected rods are suitably positioned and secured to hold an object as is recited in Claim 1, for example. There is no discussion contained in the Ramsey et al. patent regarding holding an object by way of rods secured in post clamps. This is only disclosed and claimed in the present application.

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In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the Ramsey et al. patent does not disclose or suggest the invention recited in Claim 1. Withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection and allowance of Claim 1 are respectfully requested.

With regard to independent Claim 11, it is respectfully submitted that the Ramsey et al. patent does not disclose or suggest anything regarding "a base" to which the post clamps are secured, "an articulated structure secured to the base," or any of the other aspects discussed above with regard to Claim 1.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Ramsey et al. patent does not disclose or suggest the invention recited in Claim 11. Withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection and allowance of Claim 11 are respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 5-10 and 14-16 are considered allowable over the Ramsey et al. patent at least based upon their dependence from allowable Claims 1 and 11. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the Ramsey et al. patent does not disclose or suggest the use of multiple post clamps, such as is recited in many of the dependent Claims. Withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection and allowance of Claims 2-9, 12-15, 18 and 19 are respectfully requested.

The cited art heretofore made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure to the extent indicated by the Examiner.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending Claims are not anticipated by, nor are they obvious in view of, the cited patents. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the pending Claims are allowable, and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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